

any businesses, you have got a problem.

SENATOR BEREUTER: I think you are getting down to the point that Omaha is recognizing some of its problems a little late. It is true, I believe, that we have had enabling legislation to help Omaha for quite some time and the City Council refused to take the initiative and use the legislation which could have avoided some of the problems they now have. That doesn't mean they don't deserve this legislation as well, I would point out. I would like to ask one other question. It is quite important to me, given the happenings of the last few days. What kind of enabling legislation are you going to develop if the constitutional amendment is prepared? Are you going to provide enabling legislation which blindly treats all cities the same, or as was the case here a few days ago, are you going to be punitive to small and rural areas or are you going to put legislation together that can be used by them as well?

SENATOR SIMON: I would yield to Senator Koch since he is the maker of the motion.

SENATOR BEREUTER: I am sorry. I was addressing it to you. Do you have anything you would like to express on that?

SENATOR SIMON: No, I would let, Senator Koch, I think, could better answer that question really.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Well, it is an important question to me. I think I know the answer I am going to get on the other. The point I would like to make at this point is this, you can't carry principle to the point of absurdity as we tried to do here a few days ago. So if you are going to put some enabling legislation together, if the people give you the constitutional amendment, I hope you will not apply it routinely across the state as the federal government has done and as we tried to do here the other day. We have special problems in rural Nebraska and in small communities as well. If there is any reason for a rural split, we have seen some demonstration of it here in the past few days.

SENATOR SIMON: I could just answer, Senator Bereuter, that the bill would provide for the local option, and obviously, the problems that Omaha has and the problems that Lincoln may or may not have, and Lincoln is addressing the problems better than Omaha has right now.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Thank you, Senator Simon. I understand that it is a local option situation as I would expect it to be and is appropriate. The question is, what will the qualifying measures be, what type of boards will be set up, how big will they be, are you going to make little communities and first class cities jump through every possible hoop that might be required of the metropolitan city quite appropriately? Those are the questions I would like to pose. And I think they are appropriate to address by someone here at this point today. Thank you for your answers.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: For my own clarification, I would like to ask Senator Koch a question.